

FOOD PRICES FALL AS RAILWAYS CLEAR

Decided Drop in Wholesale
Markets Follows Arrival of
Many Trainloads.

GUARDS FOR GROCERIES

Police Promise Protection and
Jewish Dealers Will Not
Suspend.

Father Knickerbocker became a fishmonger yesterday when he put on sale throughout the city 20,000 pounds of Pacific coast smelts shipped to the Mayor's food supply committee on the order of George W. Perkins, chairman. The smelts, which were caught this week in the Columbia River, may be had in city stores at 6 cents a pound, approximately one-third of the price charged for smelts hauled out of Atlantic waters. But the East Side refused to buy. Wagon wheels sent through the crowded streets bearing signs that gave the price and the quality. Mr. Perkins sent his secretary, John W. McGrath, through the district in his sedan to sell the smelts. The housewives refused to buy either from the wagons or the automobile. In every crowd some one raised religious objections to the fish. Agitators dropped every other interest to follow the fish wagons through the East Side and to declaim against them at every stop. Little distribution was accomplished.

Mistaken for Charity.

So that the committee which is acting as jobber may be mistaken the chairman of the Mothers Anti-High Price League, the leading organization in the boycott, Mr. Perkins will meet a committee this morning in the Union Square Hotel. The league, it is understood, will try to persuade the Mayor's committee to confine the sale to the city markets so that retailers will have no part in the sale. Mrs. Bella Newman Zerkman, who is one of the committee, said last night: "If we find that the city offered the fish for sale it will be all right, and we will ask the city to sell all sorts of food on the East Side at reduced prices. But if we find that the fish was offered for sale by Mr. Perkins or any other private person we will refuse such products on the ground that it is charity, and the women of the East Side don't want charity."

The fish which Mr. Perkins sent over to the East Side to-day were smelts, and many women of this quarter have a religious prejudice against this kind of fish.

This first effort to reduce the cost of living will be followed up to-day or tomorrow, when the city will put on retail counters or pushcarts in the East Side, beans and hominy. Prices and place of sale for these foods will be announced by the committee later.

Poultry Sales Under Guard.

The boycott against poultry has been lifted to a great extent by the women of the Bronx and Brownsville in Brooklyn. However, it had little abatement on the East Side of lower Manhattan and in Harlem. Twenty-four carloads of fowl arrived in New York yesterday. They will go on sale today in all quarters of the city. Police protection has been guaranteed in sections that have been the scenes of riots.

Poultry and onion markets again yesterday to a point that promises a disaster to the speculators who purchased large lots. Where Friday last week potatoes were retailed at eight or nine cents a pound, yesterday they were sold at six cents. Onions, which were eight cents a week ago, have dropped to eleven.

So radical have been the price shifts that those who bought wholesale in potatoes are disposing of their stock at the loss of a dollar a barrel. Where onions were bought for speculative purposes a week ago at from \$10 to \$12 a hundred pounds yesterday these same purchasers were glad to get rid of them at from \$5 to \$7 a hundred pounds.

Meats Move More Freely.

Meats, such as lamb, mutton and beef, have declined in price because of the gradual lifting of the food boycott. As the terminals become cleared there has been a more rapid movement of all food commodities.

The Pennsylvania Railroad, to further facilitate shipments, has appointed an embargo committee for the handling of freight. As a result there have been moved through the Pittsburg and Buffalo gateways in the last week more than 3,100 carloads of freight. Of this number approximately 2,000 were bound for the East and the remainder for Westbound. Arrangements now are pending to move 4,100 additional cars of embargoed freight.

The easing of freight congestion has been one of the main factors in delivering food to New York markets. Trains of food stuffs have been given preference. By this means, it is expected, the present reductions in prices will be maintained.

Sugar Up to Nine Cents.

Sugar alone refused to follow the downward trend of food products. It sold at 9 cents a pound, and the majority of retailers refused to give more than 3½ pounds to any single purchaser. The shortage is only temporary, and is not caused by the Cuban revolution, as those in the trade have intimated. The primary—and probably the sole—cause is the recent strikes in nearby refineries. The labor troubles will be over in a few days, it is anticipated, and sugar will return to its normal value.

Egg prices fell with the rest. In the morning's shipments 18,065 cases, making a total of approximately 5,732,400 eggs, came to town. The wholesale price was set at 33 cents a dozen. At once prices succumbed to this onslaught. Two cents on the dozen was chopped off, which makes a drop in dozen prices of 10 cents in five days.

General demoralization has set in on all products. Freight rates, freight shipments and promised remedial action on the part of the city, State and country have tended to upset the conditions of a week ago. Prices now lack stability; they may go lower. However, Joseph J. Hartigan, Commissioner of Weights and Measures, warns the public not to be too optimistic. Producers in general believe the decline in price is a flimsy and that prices will creep up again in the near future. For this reason advocates of legislative control of food are urging that prompt action be taken to give authority for standardizing prices.

Protection for Jewish Grocers.

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Another conflict, one between the Department of Health and the Mayor's food committee, was reported yesterday when Dr. Hays, Bureau of Health Com-

missioner, offered amendments to Mr. Perkins for a protest he had made to the Mayor against the committee's recent rice pamphlet. The letter said in part: "It must be about you that the Department of Health and of the Commissioner, have no quarrel with the Mayor's Market and Food Commission, or with you as its spokesman and chairman. It is unfortunate that frankly contradictory statements as to the kinds of foods that are advisable at this time and the ways of their preparation for the sake of food value and the economy should be issued simultaneously by two city departments in the interest of public education. I here and now offer you the immediate and continued cooperation of the Health Department to the end that the educational campaign engaged in by all agencies of the city government may reach the greatest usefulness."

Raisins Are Recommended.

That this letter healed the hurt sensibilities of the committee was made apparent in the fact that when the carload of raisins arrived yesterday morning it was inspected by Dr. Emerson's assistants. Also later in the day Mr. Perkins conferred with another official of the Health Department, and the committee should be issued simultaneously by two city departments in the interest of public education. I here and now offer you the immediate and continued cooperation of the Health Department to the end that the educational campaign engaged in by all agencies of the city government may reach the greatest usefulness."

The Health Department issued its eleventh bulletin on food during the day. It suggested the use of raisins for food and listed a number of combinations possible with them. These are plentiful and can be bought at about 13 cents a pound. Magistrates were less lenient yesterday in dealing with women arrested for despoiling food. One was sent to the House of Detention, three were fined \$10 each, with the alternative of serving ten days in jail; one was fined \$5 and another \$3. Most of the riots occurred in the Bronx, and Magistrate Wylo, sitting in the Morrisania court, let only one woman off. She was warned her next offense would bring her to the workhouse.

JEWISH WOMEN IN FOOD RIOT.

They Attack Kosher Dealer in
Paterson Over Poultry Prices.

Jewish women swooped down on David Weiss, a kosher butcher at 103 River street, Paterson, N. J., last night, broke glass in the store and carried off some poultry. The police succeeded in quelling the rioters before they had injured the butcher.

The women had read that live killed poultry was selling in New York for eighteen cents a pound. Weiss demanded twenty-two cents. "You robber!" cried one of the women in the crowd. She walked out and in a short time had aroused the whole neighborhood. Weiss tried to shut the doors against the rush but did not succeed. He fled behind a meat case and was fighting off the attack when the police came.

Food at Cost for 12,000.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., March 1.—Arrangements are being made by the Binghamton Food Supply Committee, which employs 12,000 men and women, to sell to all their employees flour, bread and eggs at cost.

130 Tons of Onions Lost.

Onions, 130 tons of them, were lost, it was reported yesterday, to save the French steamship *Il de la Reunion*. The vessel shifted her cargo after sailing from Spain, and the onions were jettisoned.

INSURANCE CHANGES URGED.

Law Recommended for Mutualization
of Equitable Life Company.

ALBANY, March 1.—Passage of a law to mutualize the Equitable Life Assurance Society by the retirement of its capital stock is recommended to the Legislature in the annual report of the State Insurance Department, made public to-day by Jesse R. Phillips, State Superintendent of Insurance. The report points out that under the existing insurance laws it has been impossible for the reason that as soon as steps were taken by the company to acquire a portion of the stock under section 16 of the insurance law the stock so purchased would cease to have voting power.

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LEONARD AMES LEFT \$761,139.

\$101,842 Outright With \$5,000
Annuity Willed to Widow.

Leonard Ames, former president of the Ames Trust Co. of 35 Liberty street, who died on June 23, 1914, left a net estate of \$761,139, according to an appraisal filed yesterday. Mr. Ames, who married in 1905 Miss Fanny Lewin, a maid who attended his first wife during several years of illness, left her \$101,842 outright and an annuity of \$5,000.

Allan and Alfred Ames, brothers, and Fannie C. Dewing, sister, were bequeathed \$166,765 each. Four nieces and two nephews are to receive \$12,494 each. A bequest of \$3,000 went to the City Hospital at Oswego, N. Y., the home of his widow.

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U. S. INQUIRY INTO FOOD RIOTS ASKED

Congress Resolution Aims to
Find Out if Aliens Are
Responsible.

WOULD DEPORT INCITERS

Proposal for Investigation
Referred to House Commit-
tee on Labor.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Secretary of Labor Wilson is instructed to investigate the underlying causes of so-called "food riots," with a view to ascertaining if aliens are inciting or encouraging the disorders. In a resolution introduced in the House to-day by Representative Edmonds of Philadelphia, it is suggested that the recently enacted immigration law be amended to provide that any alien who is guilty of inciting disorders may be deported on a warrant from the Secretary of Labor after the fact becomes operative May 1. It is believed aliens of anarchistic tendencies are largely concerned in the disorders in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, and it is not impossible that German propagandists have had a hand in the work, although Mr. Edmonds disclaims such a belief.

However, it is believed that if the Secretary of Labor should make an investigation with a view to utilizing the deportation threat immediately after the riot becomes operative it would act as a powerful deterrent on the lawless tendencies in the large foreign communities.

"Whereas during the past few weeks there have been riots committed in a number of large centers of population of the United States, apparently on account of the high cost of foodstuffs, and whereas the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States are concerned in the investigation and the resolution of the same, and whereas the Secretary of Labor is hereby directed to investigate into the underlying causes of such riots and to determine if the instigators of the riots and their associates would not be aliens subject to deportation for violating section 19, public law number 301, Sixty-four, Congress, which prohibits any alien from advocating or teaching the unlawful destruction of property, the Secretary of Labor is further directed to report the findings of the investigation as soon as completed to the Sixty-fourth Congress."

SING SING FEELS H. C. OF L.

Food, Luxuries in Many Tenements
Here, Served to Convicts.

The cost of feeding the convicts in Sing Sing Prison has increased 40 per cent. within the last three months, it was reported yesterday, to save the State from the institution showed yesterday. While the State has been urging that her citizens substitute rice for potatoes and get along with less meat, the prison authorities have been furnishing the convicts with rations of potatoes, wheat bread, roast beef and many other foods which are welcome to the inmates of the New York city.

Prison employees said yesterday that not only were the prisoners fed bountifully, but they were also given luxuries and other foodstuffs from the storehouses, and generally lived much better than the average workman. It was reported in the Legislature yesterday that the prison had run about \$15,000 ahead of the amount appropriated thus far during the fiscal year.

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FINE SMELTS AT 6 CENTS GO BEGGING

John W. McGrath Tries Vainly
to Ease High Cost Strain
on East Side.

FAILS AS STREET ORATOR

Women Suspicious of Efforts
of Mayor's Food Commit-
tee to Aid Them.

As secretary to Col. Roosevelt he was preeminently fitted for the strenuous pace, and acting in a like capacity for the versatile George W. Perkins he has been almost equally busy. But John W. McGrath reached home last night worried, exhausted and convinced of one thing—he is the worst fish pedler in the world. It was the end of his first day as a salesman of smelts and, take it from McGrath, he will sacrifice his job before he attempts another.

The Mayor's Food Supply Committee, of which Mr. Perkins is chairman, received ten tons of smelts from the Pacific coast yesterday morning and in the inspection of the consignment McGrath accompanied his employer. When it was proposed that the Columbia River haul be publicly disposed of, McGrath became breathless in his eagerness to feed the fish to the hungry East Side. He borrowed Mr. Perkins' huge Mercedes car and started forth with the tonnage loaded.

As the machine plunged into the congested streets McGrath, ever a student of human nature, saw his efficiency would be hampered if he tried to sell smelts at six cents a pound from a \$12,000 automobile. He shifted the cargo to an express wagon and made another essay among the poor.

Met by Dark Looks.

When the wagon reached Monroe street the secretary called a halt. He mounted the pile of 175 boxes and addressed himself to sundry and all: "Here we have fresh fish—the flavoriest, as sweet as when it's flavory was pulled from the net. And think of it, men and women, we are offering these little fish at the price of 6 cents a pound. How can we do it? How can we do it? Because as the Mayor's food committee we bought at lowest price and are selling to you at cost. Now, then, who wants to buy fish. Don't crowd; there is enough here for all. Each box holds fifty pounds, so you can have them at \$3 a box. Do I hear any smelts?"

McGrath paused to gain breath and looked about him. He expected to see pinched faces light up with joy, to hear glad cries welcome his announcement. Dark looks and silence were his only greeting. Once more he took up his ballyhoo. He held aloft two sample smelts.

"Why do you hesitate? For smelts taken on our own coast you pay from 16 to 18 cents a pound. These are more than twice as good as the imported ones. Give your husbands, your children a treat. Now, then, come forward, we are ready to do business."

He was alone in his readiness. There was a lack of response for which he could not account. Then came a voice. "But, it's another trick of the rich. The fish are rotten and they want to make us eat them."

Crowd Prevents Deal.

"My dear madam, I assure you—began McGrath. "They ain't kosher. What do you want from our lives?"

"But I tell you, I represent the Mayor's committee," insisted the ambitious purveyor. "Does the Mayor sell us the food we asked; does he cut the prices on potatoes and onions?" This from a woman who emerged from her shawl long enough to shout, "No; well, then we boycott everything."

"Now let me tell you—Ah, here I see a fish dealer. Now, you sir, ought to be able to understand what this bargain means. Here! Did you ever see any smelts better than those? How many can we sell you?"

The merchant, who had pressed close to the wagon, began to reach for his money. There was an outburst from the crowd.

"Morris, understand us, you buy anything from that schemer and we buy nothing from you. That's certain."

Morris put his money back in his pocket and walked away. McGrath saw his last hope depart with him and gloomily gave the driver orders to move on. No sales.

Several times in nearby streets the secretary thought he saw opportunities. He had no difficulty in gathering a crowd, but each time he organized it he found on the outskirts women who wore buttons that identified them as members of the Mothers Anti-High Price League. Each time he launched into his "spiel" there came interruptions from them. They had doubts that would accept no explanations. "Mac" quit whenever he found they would not take him on trust.

Encouraged by Sale.

Through previous streets he found the Williamsburg Bridge. He attempted no cartail oratory at this point. Quietly, almost secretly, he went to the market and sold and put his wares before them. He sold fifty before he left there. McGrath, he tried once again to hold the women of the East Side under his spell as an orator. Success could be expressed with a zero.

In Rivington street he eased his wagon of thirty more boxes, but it was done through the surreptitious methods he employed in the Williamsburg Bridge market. With ninety-nine boxes still on his hands, McGrath, who has the reputation of being one of the most aggressive hockey players that ever put skate on ice, believed the ghetto to public would yield in the end. He jacked up his selling arguments in all points of seeming weakness and made one last effort. He departed amid hoots and dares to come back.

"If those women ever really get mad I don't want to be the man they get after," commented McGrath as he ordered the truck back to the barn. On his way home he contributed his sample smelts to a policeman.

MIS HOME LIFE RIVALS WAR.

Boer Veteran Threatens to Go to
England and Enlist.

"Life in the trenches couldn't be any worse than life in my flat," said Thomas Bolger of 2420 Eighth avenue yesterday when his wife, Clara, had him summoned before Magistrate Harris in the Court of Domestic Relations for alleged failure to support her and their five children. "My wife nags me all the time. I'm going to England and enlist in the British army."

TWO SENTENCED TO ATLANTA.

Realty Agents Convicted of Swindling
Boarding House Keepers.

Forrester A. Linn and Joseph C. Lynch, real estate agents of Times Square, who were convicted of a scheme to swindle boarding house keepers, were sentenced yesterday to Atlanta Prison. Linn was sentenced to serve three years, and Lynch two by Federal Judge Sessions.

Scores of landladies from various parts of the city testified that the agents, who operated under the name of the Real Estate Leasing Company, promised to obtain well-paying tenants for their rooms in return for fees of \$5 and \$10 which promises never materialized after the payments were made.

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MANY COLLEGE MEN KNEW RUTH CRUGER

Several Columbia and N. Y. U.
Students Summoned by
District Attorney.

FATHER DISAPPROVED

Trip With Youth in Taxicab
on Day She Disappeared
Practically Proved.

The possible connection between a hastily written note of disappointment to a New York University boy—the last letter Ruth Cruger penned—and her disappearance two days later is a problem the District Attorney's office will attempt to unravel to-day. Several college men, members of the fraternities of Columbia and New York universities, were subpoenaed yesterday and will testify this afternoon.

The letter was written on Sunday, February 11, following instructions from her parents to break off an engagement Miss Cruger had with a Columbia undergraduate, a young man named William Helms and Thomas Kerrigan, testified as to the character of Alfred Cocchi, the motorcycle proprietor, who has been introduced to this young man by the New York University student at a college dance some months before, but it was only recently that he had pressed his acquaintance.

Called Youth on Telephone.

Miss Cruger's father, according to his statements, did not approve of having the young man call and insist that his daughter break off the engagement she had with him for Tuesday evening. He was told that the girl was a natural friend of her dilemma and with so much feeling, it is said, that the young man destroyed the note at once.

On the following Tuesday Miss Cruger's parents left for Boston. That same morning, according to the tele-

phone slips, she called up the New York University student. Then at 1:10 P. M., shortly before she left the house never to return, she talked with him once up and down the telephone.

Class records for that Tuesday at the university are said to show that the young man who was to have met her that night attended the lecture during the afternoon. Defectives say he did not spend the evening at home, but reached there about 11 o'clock. This young man, with the New York University student and other undergraduates, will appear before John T. Doelling, Assistant District Attorney, this afternoon.

The fact that Miss Cruger was seen to enter a taxi in company with a young man shortly after 2 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon was almost definitely established yesterday by Henry Rubian, a chauffeur who has a taxi stand at the corner of 127th street and Broadway.

Tells of Girl Entering Taxi.

"I was sitting in the driver's seat of my car when a young man about 5 feet 11 inches tall and around 28 years old came up and engaged me," Rubian testified. "He told me to drive slowly along the street while he walked on the sidewalk. I drove east on 127th street, and in the middle of the block he motioned to a girl, who came from the middle of the street and got into the cab with him."

Rubian testified that he remembered having often seen the girl in the neighborhood, and when shown a picture of Miss Cruger declared he thought she was the young woman whom he saw company with the man, he had driven that afternoon to the subway station at 127th street and Lenox avenue.